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SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : What steps do the Government propose to take to satisfy the public complaint of dissatisfaction against the management of the private licensee?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : In July of this year, there will be discussion on the Electricity Board budget. This is a question which involves a statement of policy. Therefore, I will not be able to answer the question in an interpellation. This may be taken up when the budget of the State Electricity Board is taken up for discussion later on.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, has there not been any complaint from the public that the private licensee is not doing the job pretty well?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, Sir. There are a number of cases.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Sir, is there any proposal to nationalise some or all of the private electrical undertakings?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I cannot be persuaded to make a policy statement during the interpellation time.

Loans to unemployed goldsmiths

* 180 Q.—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount, if any, allotted for the grant of loans to unemployed goldsmiths;

(*b*) the conditions under which the loans are granted; and

(*c*) the amount of loan disbursed to unemployed goldsmiths, till date?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) to (*c*) A statement[a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : From the statement placed on the table of the House, it is seen that nearly a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs has been allotted. But actually it is only Rs. 15 lakhs. May I know, Sir, how many applications have been sanctioned and how many are pending?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : This relates to the period up to the end of the 9th February. Subsequently, we have allotted up to Rs. 30 lakhs. If a separate question is put, I will be able to give the break-up.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, after the first year, the loans have to be repaid in fourteen half-yearly instalments. Will the Government allow the recovery of the amount to be made after three years, because the goldsmiths are suffering from great difficulties?

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 67.

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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : This goldsmiths are not now engaged in repayment. They are now engaged in getting loans, and when they put forth their difficulties when repayment starts, we will consider them.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Sir, it seems there is a proposal before the Government to assign some of the lands of the affected goldsmiths to the Harijans near Cuddalore. Will the Government interefere and safeguard the rights of the affected goldsmiths?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If a specific question is put, I will look into it.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, is there any proposal to start small scale industries for the convenience of the goldsmiths?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, Sir. The Government have got a proposal to start four industrial co-operatives in which the goldsmiths will be engaged in production not only of gold and silver articles but also a number of multi-metal articles.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE COLLAPSE OF A HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING IN MADURAI.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Hon. the Chief Minister to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the collapse of a higher elementary school building in Madurai, involving the loss of many young lives and causing severe injuries to many. The House is anxious to know in detail the steps taken by the Government to afford relief to the injured in this tragic accident.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is with deep regret that I rise to make the following statement.—

The Saraswathi Higher Elementary School in which the mishap occurred is a mixed school situated on the Rajah Mill Road, Madurai Municipality. The school was started in 1953 and it gradually developed into a very big institution with 3,700 students on its rolls and a staff of 99 teachers (91 women and 8 men).

The school is accommodated in 8 separate buildings. The building that met with the calamity consists of 2 wings with 3 floors each. It was put into use in 1956 with only the ground floor. The superstructure was built only last year. The building measures $71\frac{3}{4}$ feet by 40 feet by 31.3 feet in dimensions. The ground floor is built of lime and rock stones. The superstructure is built of lime mortar and bricks. This structure has